

# THE BOUNTY HUNTER

15p

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MICRON

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# The Bounty Hunter



DEAN ENDERS WAS DETERMINED  
TO "HUNT" THE MAN WHOSE  
TRAIL HE FOLLOWED, EVEN IF  
HE HAD TO SPEND A LIFETIME  
DOING IT.

HE WAS FURIOUS...LONGING TO ENTER A FIGHT AS HE HAD NEVER HOPED BEFORE.



DEAN HAD NEVER BEEN THE VIOLENT KIND, BUT HE HAD CHANGED COMPLETELY IN A FEW HOURS.



HE HAD NEVER REALLY WANTED TROUBLE. TO BE HONEST, HE HAD EVEN ACTED LIKE A COWARD ON OCCASIONS. BUT NOW...

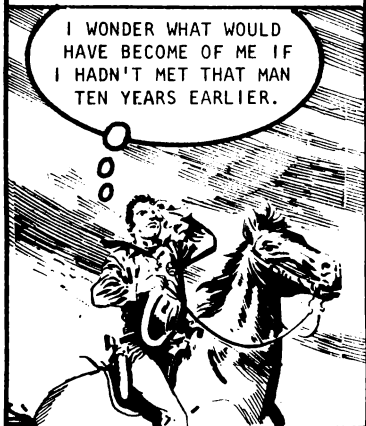


NOW IT WAS DIFFERENT. HE WAS GOING TO KILL HAZARD. IT WAS THE LEAST HE COULD DO FOR OLD CHASE.



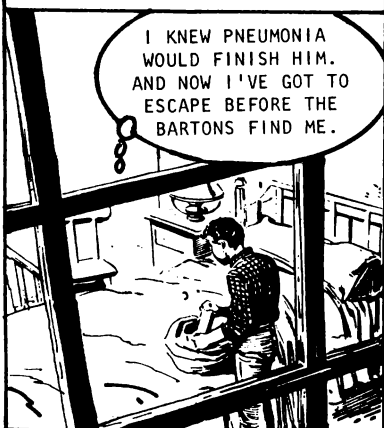
CHASE KONDIKE HAD TRIED TO  
MAKE A MAN OUT OF HIM. HE  
OWED EVERYTHING TO HIM.

I WONDER WHAT WOULD  
HAVE BECOME OF ME IF  
I HADN'T MET THAT MAN  
TEN YEARS EARLIER.



HE STARTED TO REMEMBER. HE HAD  
BEEN 15 YEARS OLD AND HIS  
BROTHER, THE SHERIFF OF  
ALAMITOS, HAD JUST DIED:

I KNEW PNEUMONIA  
WOULD FINISH HIM.  
AND NOW I'VE GOT TO  
ESCAPE BEFORE THE  
BARTONS FIND ME.



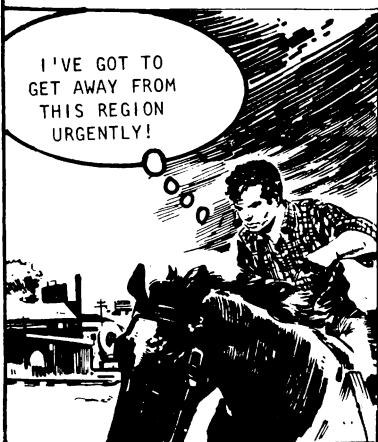
THE TWO BARTON BROTHERS  
WANTED TO TAKE REVENGE  
ON DEAN'S BROTHER WHO HAD  
SENT THEM TO JAIL.

NOW THEY'RE BACK...AND  
WHEN THEY KNOW BILL HAS  
DIED, THEY'LL WANT TO  
TAKE REVENGE ON ME. I  
KNOW IT.





DEAN HAD ALWAYS FEARED VIOLENCE, AND THAT DAY HE WAS ALMOST IN PANIC.



HE HAD ALREADY NOTICED THE FIRST SIGNS OF COWARDICE.



BUT DESPITE HIS LONG NIGHT RIDE, THE BARTONS CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AT DAWN.

OH, NO!  
IT'S THEM!

A black and white illustration of a man with dark, curly hair looking over a rocky ridge. In the distance, two riders on horseback are visible on a path.

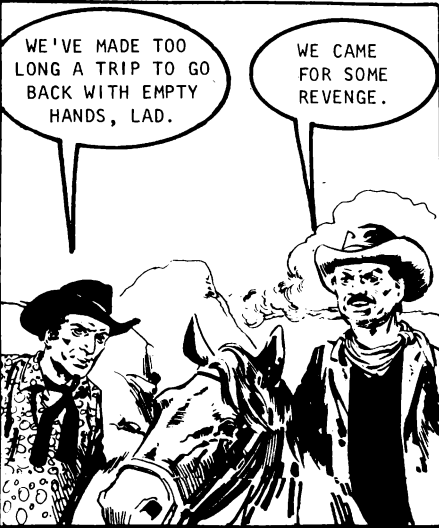
THAT'S FAR  
ENOUGH, YOU  
FOOL!

PLEASE, LET ME  
GO! WHAT HAVE I  
DONE TO YOU?

A black and white illustration showing a man on a horse being confronted by two other men on horseback. The man on the right is speaking, while the two men on the left are shouting.

WE'VE MADE TOO  
LONG A TRIP TO GO  
BACK WITH EMPTY  
HANDS, LAD.

WE CAME  
FOR SOME  
REVENGE.

A black and white illustration of two men on horseback talking to a third man on horseback. The man on the left is wearing a patterned shirt and a hat, while the man on the right is wearing a dark shirt and a hat.

AND NOW YOUR  
BROTHER'S DEAD,  
WE'LL TAKE  
REVENGE ON  
YOU.

A black and white illustration of a man looking up with a shocked expression. The background is filled with diagonal lines, suggesting a sense of urgency or danger.



DEAN ENDERS WOULD  
NEVER FORGET THAT  
MOMENT.

LEAVE THAT BOY  
ALONE. CAN'T YOU  
SEE HE'S STILL  
A KID?

GET LOST,  
MISTER!



BEAT IT...  
OR YOU'LL  
REGRET IT!

YOU DON'T  
SEEM TO  
HEAR WELL.  
YOU TWO ARE  
LEAVING.

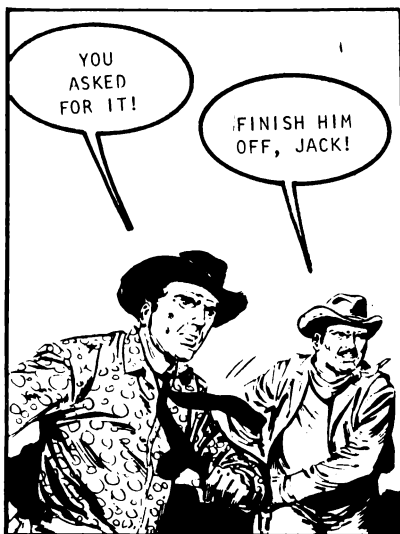


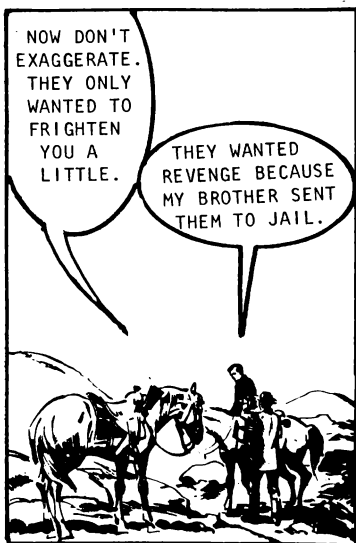
THE BARTONS WEREN'T READY  
TO ACCEPT THOSE WORDS.

YOU HEAR  
THE FELLER,  
JACK?

MUST BE  
CRAZY.  
WANTS TO  
DIE SOON.







DEAN TOLD HIS STORY TO THE MAN,  
NOT FAILING TO MENTION THE FEAR  
HE ALWAYS FELT.

I CAN'T HELP IT,  
SIR. I START TO  
SHIVER WHENEVER.  
I SEE VIOLENCE.

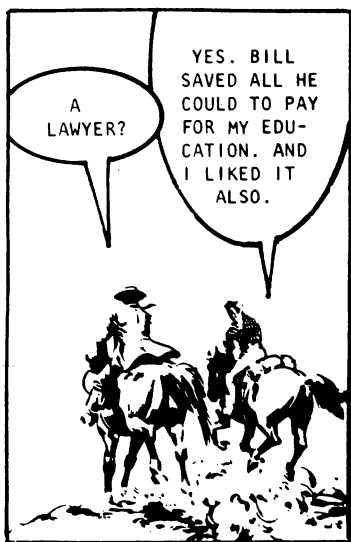
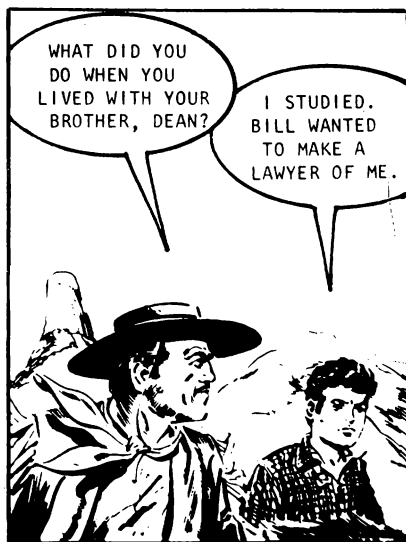
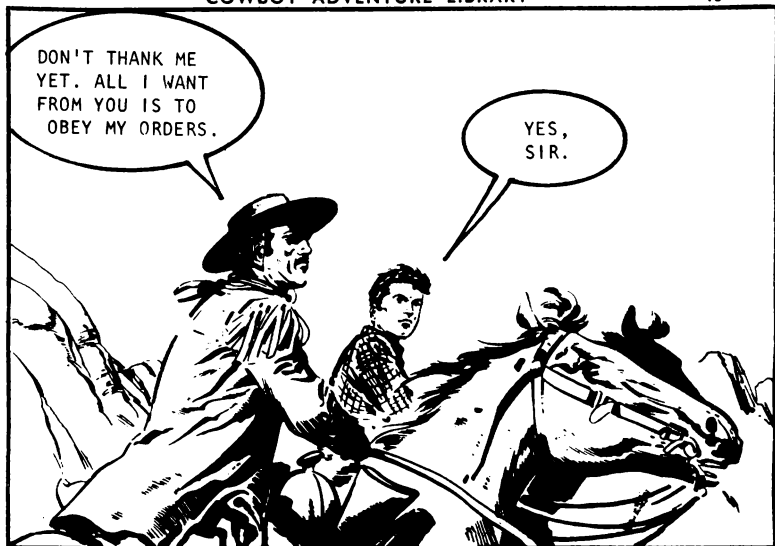
THAT'S BAD, BOY.  
BEING SO YOUNG  
AND FORCED TO GO  
ALONE ALREADY,  
ESPECIALLY...

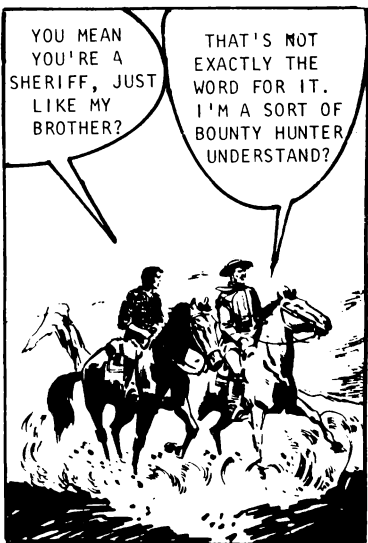
...IF YOU HAVE  
TO DOMINATE  
YOUR FEAR EVERY  
MINUTE OF YOUR  
LIFE.

WHAT ELSE CAN  
I DO, SIR? I'VE  
GOT NO FRIENDS  
NO RELATIVES.

WELL, I'VE STILL GOT  
A MATTER OF MY OWN  
TO SOLVE, BUT YOU CAN  
COME WITH ME AND WE'LL  
DISCUSS THINGS LATER.  
I CAN'T WASTE MORE  
TIME NOW.

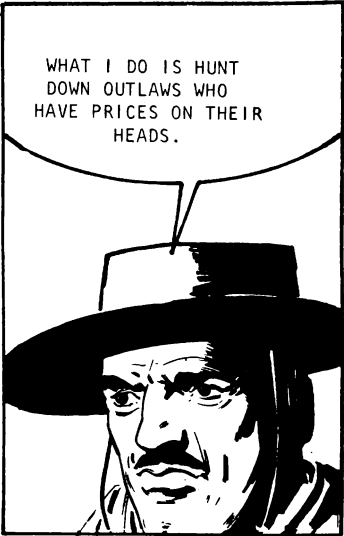
THANK  
YOU, SIR!



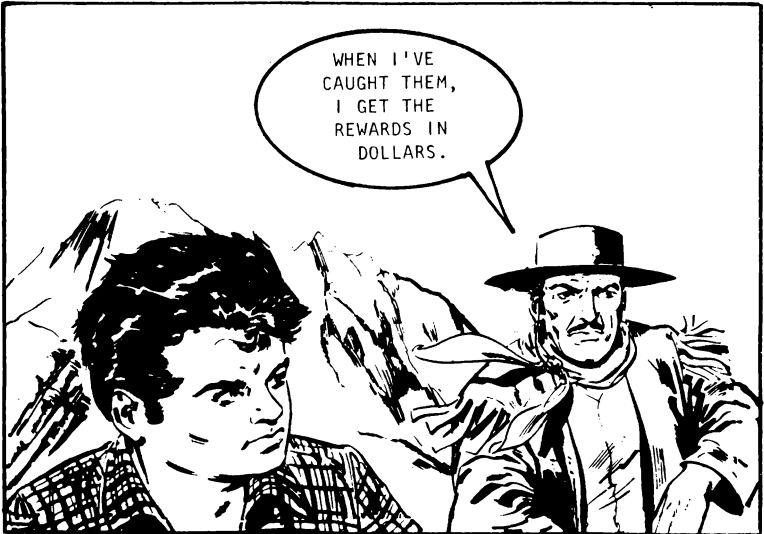




OH, YES, I HEARD  
MY BROTHER MENTION  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
ONE ONCE.



WHAT I DO IS HUNT  
DOWN OUTLAWS WHO  
HAVE PRICES ON THEIR  
HEADS.



WHEN I'VE  
CAUGHT THEM,  
I GET THE  
REWARDS IN  
DOLLARS.



AT THAT MOMENT...



THE BULLET HIT CHASE KONDIKE IN ONE SIDE.



BUT THE REWARD HUNTER WAS  
OF STUBBORN RESISTANCE.



DEAN OBEYED. ALREADY HIS FEAR  
WAS ALMOST PARALYSING HIM.



KNOWING THE BOY WAS SAFE,  
CHASE STARTED TO ATTACK.

I'M SURE IT'S  
THAT FELLER I  
WAS FOLLOWING

DAMNATION!  
IF HE DOESN'T  
STAY STILL,  
I WON'T BE ABLE  
TO GET A BEAD  
ON HIM!



BEFORE HE COULD AIM, HIS  
HUNTER WAS ALREADY UPON HIM.



CHASE KONDIKE WAS A MAN OF  
SPEEDY DECISIONS AND SWIFT  
MOVEMENTS.



HE DIDN'T WASTE  
A SECOND.



JUST THEN HIS STRENGTH  
FAILED. HE HAD LOST TOO  
MUCH BLOOD.

OHHH!

MR.  
KONDIKE!



DEAN KNEW THAT CHASE  
WOULD DIE UNLESS HE  
WAS ASSISTED  
IMMEDIATELY.

I'VE GOT TO  
GET HIM TO THE  
NEAREST TOWN.





TWO DAYS PASSED AND CHASE  
BEGAN TO RECOVER.

I OWE MY  
LIFE TO YOU,  
BOY. THANK  
YOU.

I DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING.  
SPECIAL, SIR.

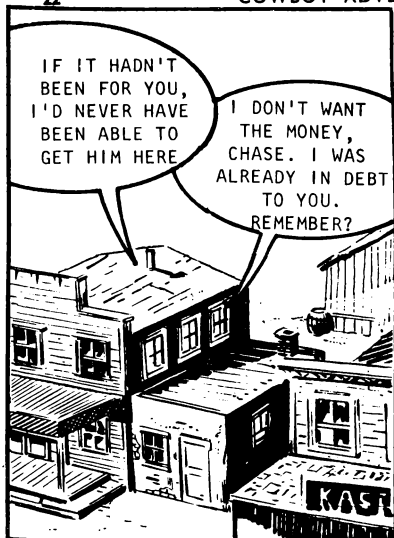
LET'S DROP  
THE "SIR".  
WE'RE FRIENDS  
NOW. OKAY?

YES, MR...  
I MEAN  
CHASE.

A FEW DAYS LATER, HE WAS  
COMPLETELY RECOVERED.

HERE YOU ARE,  
BOY. THIS MONEY  
IS YOURS. IT'S  
PART OF THE  
REWARD.

MINE? BUT I  
DIDN'T DO ANY-  
THING TO  
CATCH THAT  
MAN.



TWO DAYS LATER, THEY  
LEFT THAT TOWN.

WHERE ARE  
WE GOING,  
CHASE?

AS THERE'S NO  
JOB IN VIEW, I'LL  
TEACH YOU A FEW  
THINGS IN THE  
MEANTIME. .



CHASE KONDIKE  
TAUGHT HIM HOW  
TO FIND AND  
FOLLOW FOOTPRINTS.

THAT'S RIGHT,  
DEAN. YOU'RE  
DOING WELL.



DEAN ENJOYED ALL THOSE LESSONS UNTIL THE TERRIBLE MOMENT FOR HIM ARRIVED.

NOW YOU'LL  
HAVE TO LEARN  
HOW TO USE A  
GUN.

OH, NO.  
NOT  
THAT!



YOU SHOULDN'T BE SCARED  
OF GUNS. MAYBE ONE DAY  
YOU'LL NEED TO DEFEND YOUR-  
SELF.



TRY AND GET USED TO  
THEM. THEN YOU WON'T  
FEAR VIOLENCE. YOU'LL  
SEE.

1...1...



THE POOR BOY SUFFERED  
EACH TIME HE HAD TO  
SHOOT.

NO, NOT LIKE  
THAT. YOU DON'T  
CLOSE YOUR EYES  
WHEN YOU SHOOT!



IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE HIM  
DO ONE SINGLE EXERCISE WELL.

I'M SORRY,  
CHASE. I DO  
MY BEST,  
BUT...

YES, I CAN SEE  
YOU'D BETTER  
DEDICATE YOUR-  
SELF TO THE LAW  
AS YOU ALWAYS  
INTENDED.



DEAN WAS COMPLETELY  
PUZZLED AT HIS WORDS.

CHASE! YOU  
KNOW THAT  
COSTS MONEY,  
AND I DON'T  
HAVE ANY.

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THAT.  
I'LL TAKE CARE  
OF THAT.



DEAN ENTERED PHILADELPHIA  
UNIVERSITY.



AND CHASE SENT MONEY  
REGULARLY TO COVER HIS  
EXPENSES.

PLEASE SEND  
THIS AMOUNT TO  
PHILADELPHIA.

YES,  
SIR.



DESPITE THE DISTANCE,  
THEIR FRIENDSHIP STILL  
GREW.

DEAN, A  
LETTER  
FOR YOU!

THANK YOU,  
ARTHUR. IT  
MUST BE FROM  
CHASE.

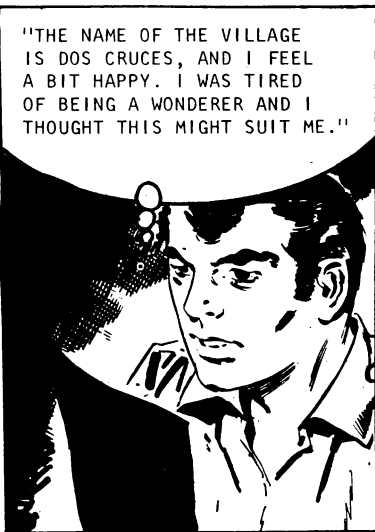
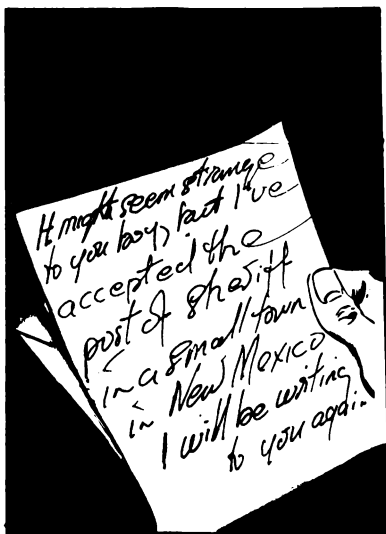


FIVE YEARS HAD PASSED  
SINCE DEAN HAD ENTERED  
THE UNIVERSITY - AND  
THEN HE RECEIVED A  
SURPRISE.

HECK! I'D  
NEVER HAVE  
IMAGINED  
SUCH A THING!



"THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE  
IS DOS CRUCES, AND I FEEL  
A BIT HAPPY. I WAS TIRED  
OF BEING A WONDERER AND I  
THOUGHT THIS MIGHT SUIT ME."



DEAN ALWAYS KEPT CHASE INFORMED OF HIS OWN PROGRESS.

BUT I'LL NEVER TELL HIM I'M STILL THE SAME COWARD, THAT I'M STILL FRIGHTENED.



...THAT I RUN FROM ANYTHING THAT COULD MEAN VIOLENCE, AND THAT EVERYBODY LAUGHS AT ME.



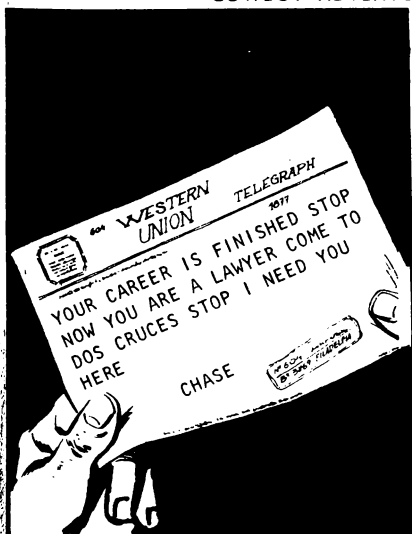
A FEW YEARS MORE PASSED. DEAN WAS NOW 26 YEARS OLD AND HAD FINISHED HIS CAREER.

TELEGRAM FOR YOU, MR. ENDERS.



LET'S HOPE IT'S GOOD NEWS!





DEAN LEFT IMMEDIATELY.

IT'S TIME TO TELL HIM HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR ALL HE'S DONE FOR ME.



HE ARRIVED A FEW DAYS LATER.

I HOPE I SEE HIM SOON. I DON'T KNOW HIS ADDRESS.



THINGS STARTED TO  
BECOME COMPLICATED  
AT THAT POINT.

HEY, BOYS!  
LOOK. A  
MASCULINE  
MODEL!

HE LOOKS A  
REAL DOLL.  
HA! HA! HA!



HE TRIED TO  
AVOID THEM.  
ONCE AGAIN  
HE FELT  
THOSE  
FEELINGS OF  
TERROR.

HEY, FLOWER,  
DON'T LEAVE US  
YET! COME HERE!

PLEASE, LET ME  
GO! I HAVEN'T  
DONE ANYTHING  
TO YOU.



BUT THEY WERE DETERMINED  
TO HAVE THEIR LAUGH.

HE SEEMS  
SCARED, EH,  
BOYS?

MAYBE HE'S AFRAID  
OF HAVING HIS  
LOVELY SUIT STAINED  
BY THE PIGS OF THE  
VILLAGE.



HE KNEW THEY WANTED TROUBLE, AND  
HE ALSO KNEW HE WASN'T GOING TO  
ACCEPT THEIR CHALLENGE.

HERE, PRETTY  
BOY. LET'S HAVE  
A GOOD LOOK AT  
YOU.



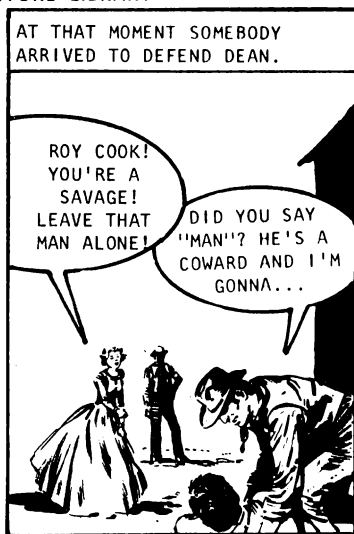
PLEASE,  
LET ME  
GO.

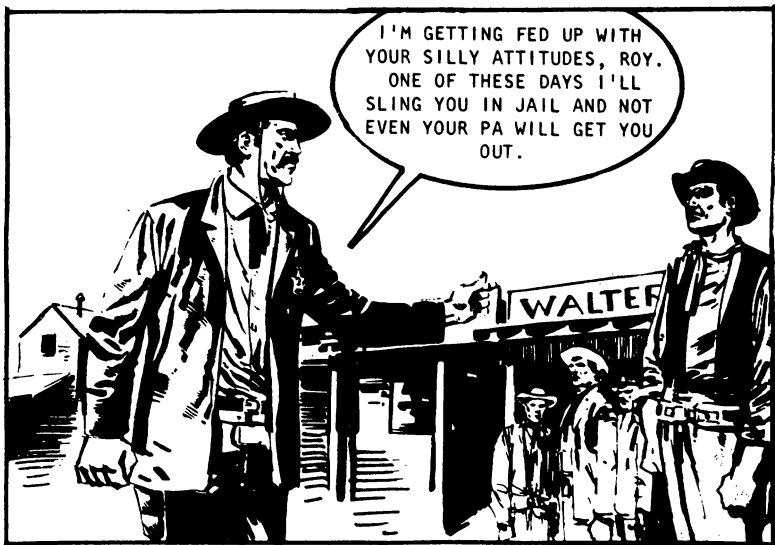
HA! HA!  
HA!

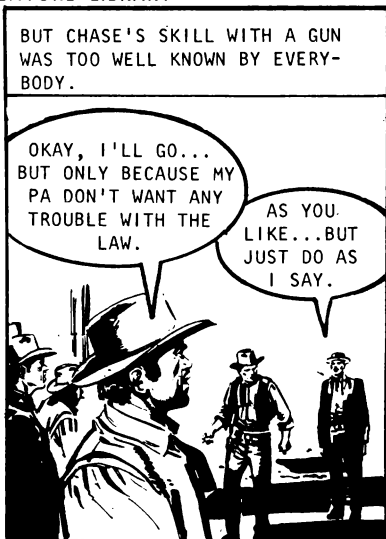
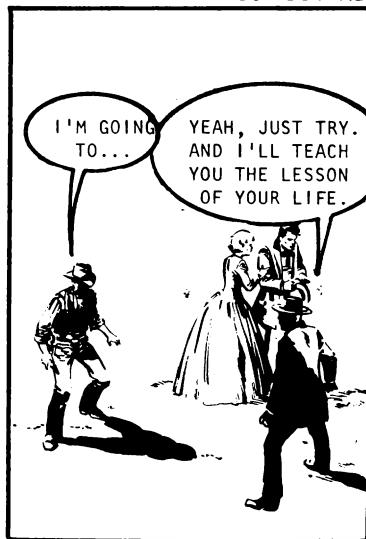
OH!

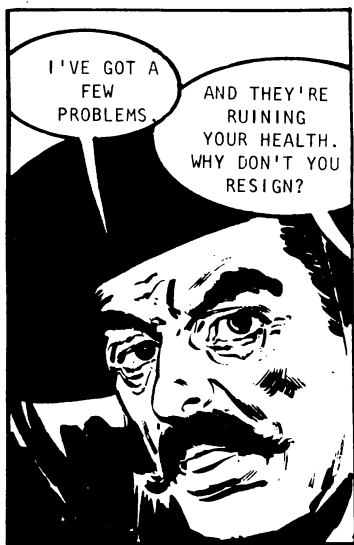
WHY, OF COURSE.  
IF YOU WANT TO  
LEAVE, LEAVE!  
HA! HA! HA!

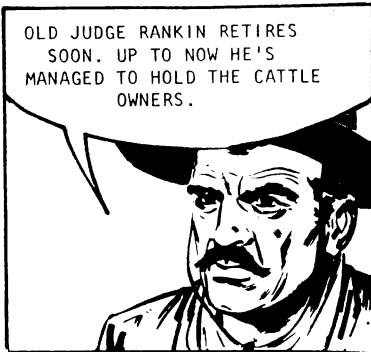


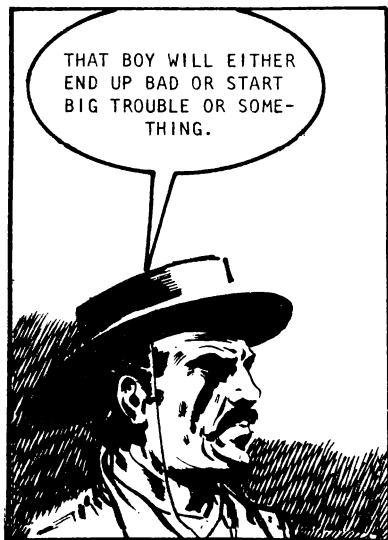
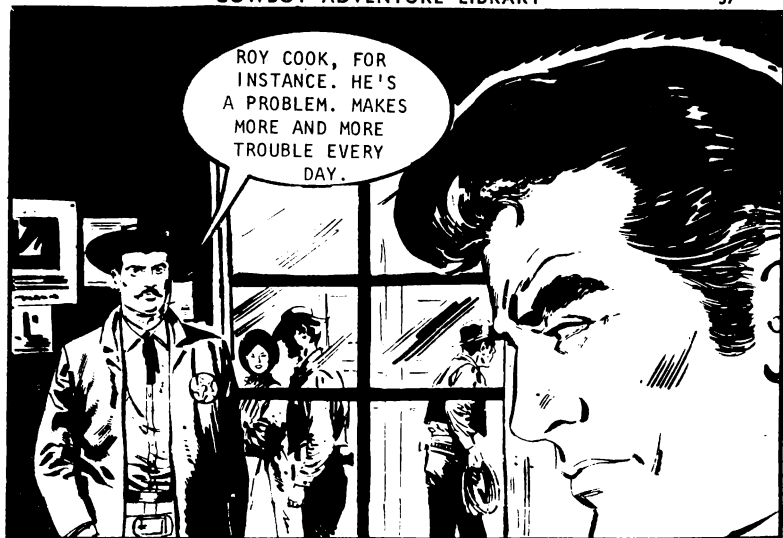


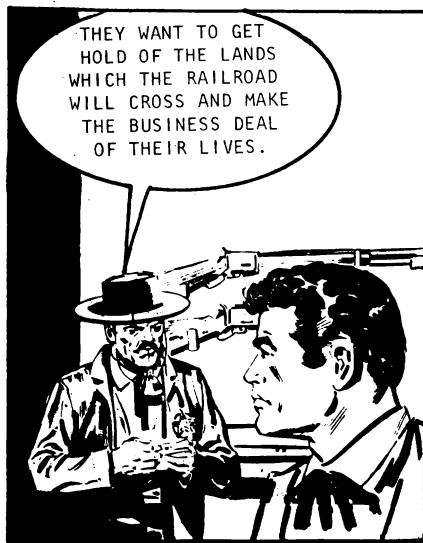
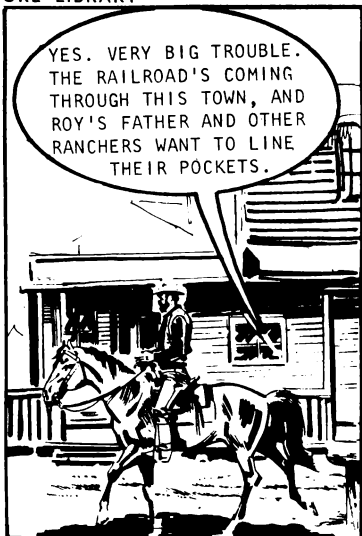
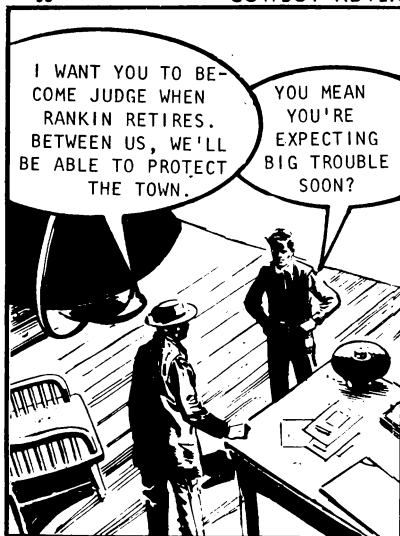














DEAN REALISED THE RISKS - AND HE WAS SCARED.

BUT I CAN'T LET  
CHASE DOWN. I OWE  
HIM EVERYTHING, AND  
HE'S NEVER ASKED  
ANYTHING.  
OF ME.

DEAN'S SILENCE WAS  
TAKEN AS ACCEPTANCE  
BY CHASE.

I KNEW YOU'D  
SAY YES, I  
KNEW YOU'D  
CHANGED. COME  
WITH ME, BOY.

ONCE OUT OF TOWN, THE  
YOUNG LAWYER WAS DUE  
FOR ANOTHER UNPLEASANT  
SURPRISE.

AND HOW  
WELL CAN  
YOU SHOOT,  
DEAN?

EH?

DEAN HAD FORGOTTEN THAT GUNS WERE STILL USED A LOT DOWN THERE.

I HAVEN'T TOUCHED A GUN SINCE THOSE LESSONS YOU GAVE ME.

THEN YOU'LL NEED PRACTICE, BOY. EVEN A LAWYER MIGHT NEED A GUN AT TIMES.



WE CAN START RIGHT NOW.

I...WELL, AS YOU WISH...



AGAINST HIS WILL, HE HAD TO TAKE LESSONS AGAIN.

THEY PRACTISED FOR MANY DAYS.

I CAN SEE IT'S HARD FOR YOU, BUT WE MUST GET SOME RESULTS.

I'LL KEEP TRYING, CHASE.



BUT HE WAS STILL ALARMED BY VIOLENCE, AND NEVER CARRIED GUNS.



THEN, ONE DAY...



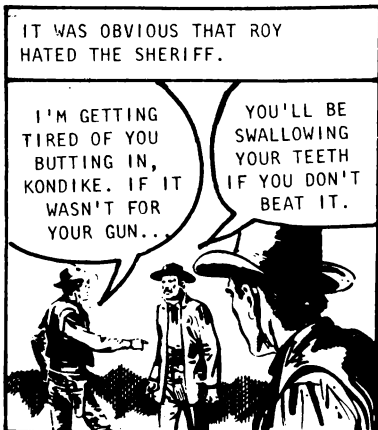
IT WAS THE TEACHER IN DOS CRUCES.



BOTH OF THEM WERE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER.









DEAN FELT TERRIBLE AT HIS  
DISPLAY OF COWARDICE IN FRONT  
OF THE GIRL.

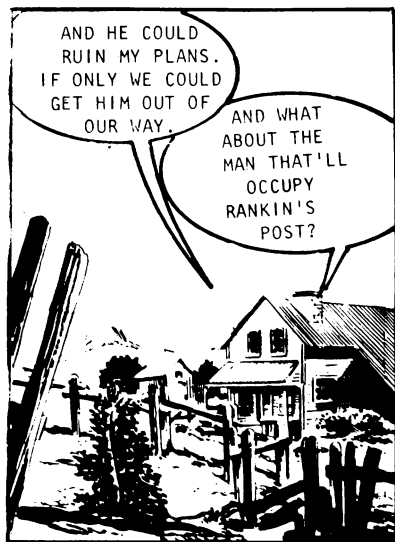
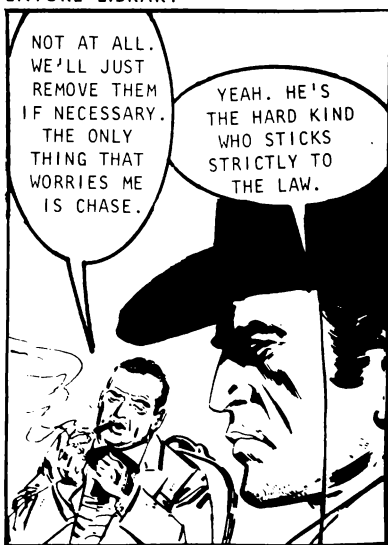
I'M SORRY,  
LEILA,  
BUT...

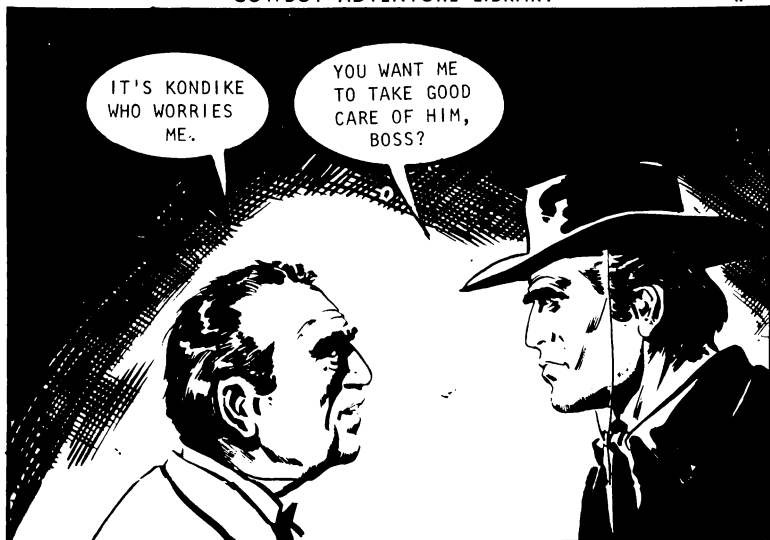
OH, DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
IT, DEAN.  
THOSE TROUBLE-  
MAKERS ARE  
IMPOSSIBLE.

THE DATE OF JUDGE RANKIN'S  
LEAVING HIS POST WAS  
APPROACHING.

AS SOON AS HE'S  
RETIRED, WE'LL  
USE THE MUSCLE  
TO GET THOSE  
LANDS.

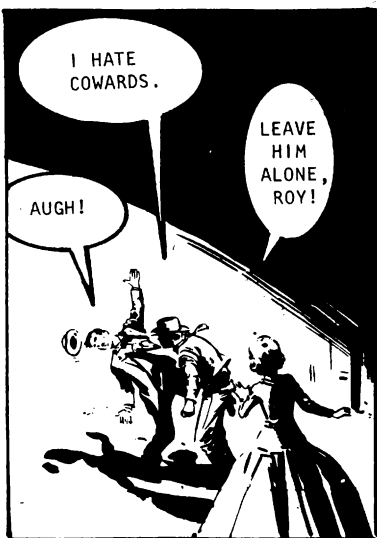
AIN'T YOU AFRAID  
THE OTHER THREE  
BIG MEN WILL CAUSE  
YOU PROBLEMS, BOSS?







SUDDENLY, THINGS BECAME COMPLICATED. ROY COOK AND HIS FRIENDS APPEARED.



CHASE HEARD  
THE VOICES.

OKAY, ROY!  
THAT WAS YOUR  
LAST CHANCE!

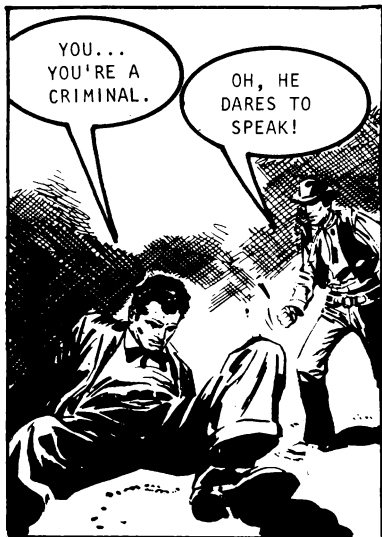
A man in a dark suit and hat is running away from a wooden building. He is carrying a suitcase. In the background, a group of people are gathered near the building. The scene is set in a town with wooden buildings.

BUT THEN...

DAMN!  
IT WAS  
A TRAP!

HE'S OURS,  
BOYS!

A man in a dark suit and hat is being captured by three other men. One man is holding him from behind, another is holding him from the side, and a third is holding him from the front. The man being captured is looking back over his shoulder. The scene is set in a town with wooden buildings.





CHASE ACTED SWIFTLY...



HAZARD SHOT  
AT CHASE'S  
HAND...

AUGH!  
MY HAND!



THE OLD SHERIFF LOST  
CONSCIOUSNESS.

THE SHOT ALMOST  
BROKE HIS HAND  
INTO PIECES!



COME ON, ROY!  
THIS IS TOO  
MUCH, ESPECIALLY  
FOR KONDIKE.

OKAY,  
LET'S GO.

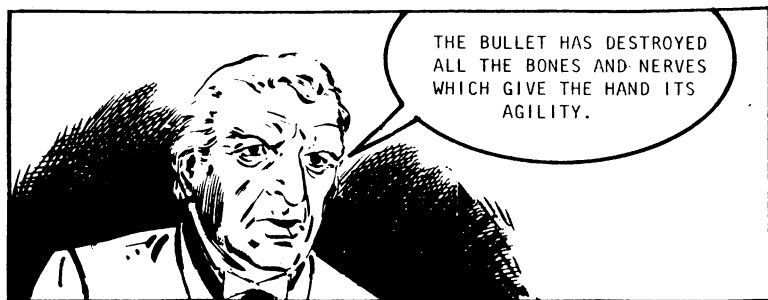


THEY LEFT.

DEAN, DEAN!  
ARE YOU ALL  
RIGHT?



YES, BUT  
MY HEAD  
HURTS.





HE HAD ACTED LIKE A PATHETIC COWARD IN FRONT OF THE WOMAN HE LOVED.

AND CHASE IS ONLY WOUNDED BECAUSE OF ME...A STUPID COWARD.

HIS FEAR HAD VANISHED AND WAS REPLACED BY BLIND FURY.

CHASE, GIVE ME YOUR GUN BELT AND STAR! I'LL GET HAZARD FOR GOOD!

BUT, DEAN...

I'VE GOT TO START SOME DAY.

DEAN, BE VERY CAREFUL PLEASE!



HE STILL BELIEVED THAT DEAN WAS A COWARD, BUT...

YOU'LL HAVE TO GO, FRIEND.

WILL I?

YOU FIRST!

AAAUGH!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

PA, IT'S THE FELLER I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?

FIRST OF ALL, HAZARD... FOR SHOOTING A LAW-MAN. AND THEN I'LL COME BACK FOR THE OTHERS INCLUDING YOUR SON.

HE WAS SO SURE OF HIMSELF THAT  
HE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT.

HE'S EVEN  
USING THE  
SHERIFF'S  
STAR!

LEAVE ME ALONE.  
I'M MORE  
INTERESTED IN  
HAZARD NOW!

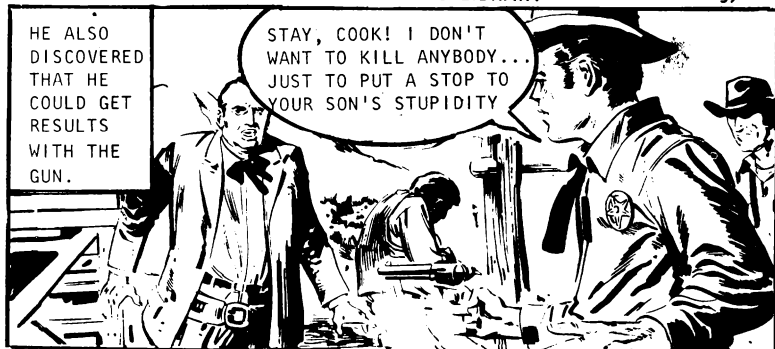
THAT'S ENOUGH  
NOW! I'M GOING  
TO THRASH YOU  
AGAIN.

NO, NOT  
THIS  
TIME!

HE ACTED AS IF HE  
WAS A NEW MAN.

YOUR DIRTY  
GAMES ARE  
OVER!

AUGH!



HAZARD MADE THE SAME  
MISTAKE AS THE OTHERS.

HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT DEAN  
ENDERS WAS NO LONGER A  
COWARD.

HAH! IT'S  
THAT FOOL  
ENDERS!

I DON'T LIKE BEING  
FOLLOWED, ENDERS!  
GET LOST BEFORE I  
KICK YOU!

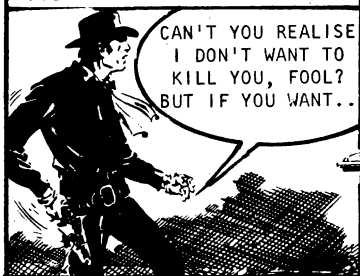
I SHOULD KILL YOU  
FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE,  
BUT I WANT JUSTICE.

WHAT'S THIS?  
PLAYING THE  
HERO?

I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE  
SECONDS TO LEAVE.  
OTHERWISE I'LL SHOOT!

I'LL GIVE YOU  
ONLY THREE  
SECONDS!

THE COLD ATTITUDE OF HIS ENEMY MADE THE YOUNG GUN-FIGHTER FURIOUS.

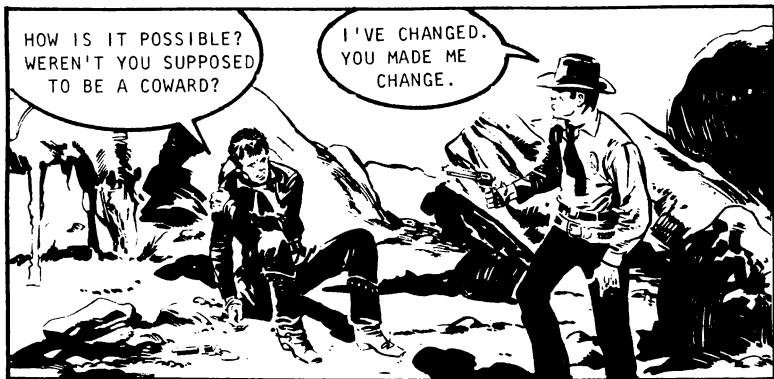


DEAN ACTED AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD.



HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A COWARD?

I'VE CHANGED. YOU MADE ME CHANGE.

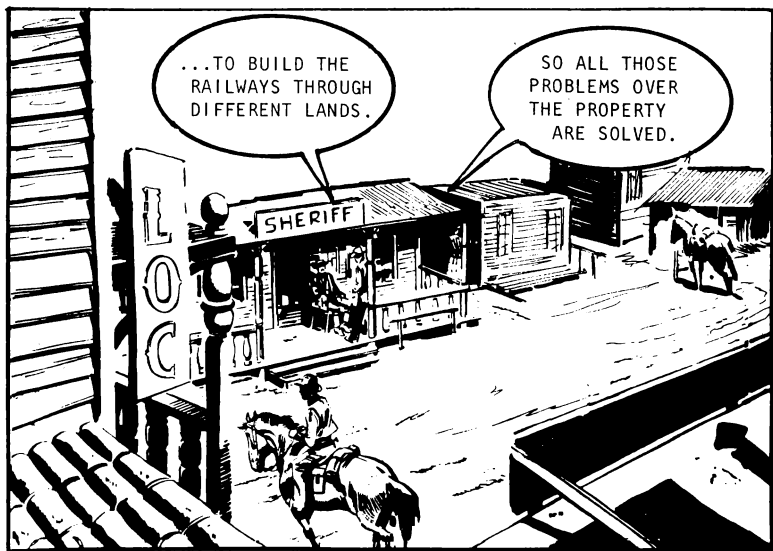
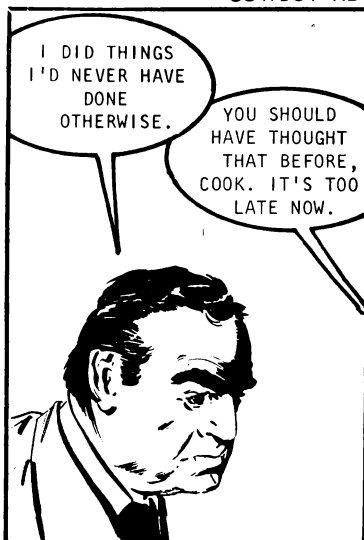


LET'S GET BACK TO DOS CRUCES. YOU'LL BE JUDGED THERE.

WAIT A MINUTE! COOK TOLD ME TO GET KONDIKE OUT OF THE WAY.







THE AMBITION OF THOSE  
RANCHERS HAS BEEN CRUSHED  
FOR GOOD, SO DOS CRUCES  
WILL STAY AS PEACEFUL  
AS BEFORE.



IT'LL SERVE AS  
EXPERIENCE FOR  
FUTURE OCCASIONS.



I'M SORRY  
FOR WHAT  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO YOU, CHASE.

RESIGNATION,  
BOY. BUT IT'S  
COMPENSATION  
THAT YOU FOUND  
YOUR TRUE WAY  
OF LIFE.



YES, IT WASN'T  
NORMAL THAT FEAR  
YOU FELT, DEAN.  
YOU HAD TO CHANGE  
ONE DAY.





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